

8

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/605,844

Examiner

Chih-Cheng Glen Kao

Applicant(s)

BLOCK ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/12/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-6,9-11,16,18,20,22 and 23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 23 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

2. Regarding claim 1, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a system including a motor assembly configured to rotate an anode in a magnetic field generated in a magnet bore of an MR imaging apparatus, wherein the motor assembly includes a radial flux motor and a biasing spring operationally connected to the anode such that rotation of the anode by the radial flux motor biases the spring in a stored energy condition and wherein the spring is further configured to rotate the anode when the bias placed on the spring is removed such that the motor assembly does not induce flux in the magnetic field during data acquisition, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claims 3-6 and 9 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

3. Regarding claim 10, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest an MR apparatus including a motor assembly configured to control rotation of a rotatable anode of an X-ray tube assembly disposed in a bore of a magnet, wherein the motor assembly includes a radial flux motor configured to rotate the rotatable anode to a pre-data acquisition rotational speed and disengage from the rotatable anode during a simultaneous acquisition of radiographic and MR data such that the rotatable anode rotates during the simultaneous acquisition of radiographic and MR data as a result of momentum generated in the rotatable anode before the simultaneous acquisition of radiographic and MR data, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claim 11 is allowed by virtue of its dependency.

4. Regarding claim 16, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a method including acquiring MR and radiographic data from a subject, and wherein a step of rotating includes a step of counter-rotating an anode prior to data acquisition to store energy in a spring connected to the anode and thereafter removing a bias placed on the anode to allow the spring to release the stored energy during data acquisition, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claims 18 and 20 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

5. Regarding claim 22, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a magnetic resonance imaging system including a motor assembly configured to control rotation of a rotatable anode disposed in a bore of a magnet, wherein the motor assembly further includes an energy storage device operationally connected to the anode and wherein the motor assembly is further configured to counter-rotate the anode so as to store energy in the energy storage device, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claim 23 is allowed by virtue of its dependency.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2882

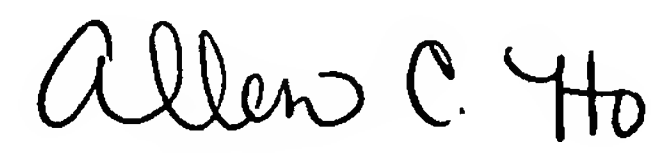
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



gk


ALLEN C. HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER